क्या राष्ट्रीय खनिज विकास निगम लौह अस्यक के इतने भारी भंडार उपलब्ध होने के आधार पर बस्तर जिले में एक लघु लौह संयंत्र लगाने का कोई प्रयास कर रहा है ?

इस्पात और खान मंत्री (श्री कृष्ण चन्द्र पन्त) : (क) और (ख) जी, हां,

(ग) 60–65 लाख टन प्रतिवर्ष के निर्यात के वर्तमान स्तर के पश्चात भी लौह अस्यक का प्रचुर भण्डार देशीय खपत के लिए उपलब्ध रहेगा । नेशनल मिनरल डेवलपमेंन्ट कारपोरेशन ने बस्तर जिले में लघु लोहा कारखाना स्थापित करने की कोई योजना नहीं बनायी है ।

Import of Fertilisers

2060. PROF C. LAKSHMANNA: Wil the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to: state;

(a) whether Government propose to continue the import of fertilisers from the rupee trade conutries in spite of the glut of fertilisers in the country; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and the circumstances under which the import of fertilisers from the rupee trade countries ^ neces sary?

THE, MINISTER OF STATE IN DEPARTMENT OF FERTILISERS IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. PRABHU): (a) and (b) The plan for import of urea and di-amonium phosphate (DAP) during the year 1987-88 has not yet been finalised. In case any of these materials are required to be imported to meet the demand for fertilisers from the farmers; it may have to be imported preferably from rupee-payment countries. Muriate of Potash is not available indigenously and part of it is planned to be imported from rupee payment areas during 1987-88.

Rehabilitation of Fertiliser Plants of IFFCO

2061. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any plan to rehabilitate the fertiliser plants of the Indian Farmers Fertiliser Corporation Limited;

(b) if so, the estimated investment and whether the World Bank has agreed to finance part of the foreign exchange requirements of the project; and

(c) if so, the amount of foreign exchange aid expected to be received from the World Bank?

THE MINISTER O'F STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FERTILIZERS IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. PRABHU). (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The estimated investment for rehabilitating the fertiliser plants of IFFCO is Rs. 129. 20 crores, out °f which the World Bank has agreed to finance Rs. 49. 50 crores in foreign exchange.

Decline in Fertilizer Production

2062. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the continuous crises in the fertilizer industry in the country resulting in substantial shortfall in the production targets and glut in fertilizers;

(b) if so, what is the precentage of decline, if any, in the fertiliser output during the last one year as against the total production capacity and what is the estimated stock of fertilisers accumulated due to glut:

(c) what are the main factors responsible for the present situation; and